



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, March 18, 2019

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Chair Joan Piper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 6 - Ms. Linda Andrews, Joan Piper, Cindy Hicks, Roger Effron, Eydie Kargas and Angie Sutherland
Absent 2 - Bruce Weaver and Jonathan Allen

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Mitzie Fiedler, Public Works Assistant Director Ricky Simpson, Public Works Administrative Coordinator Patricia Matero, Bicycle Pedestrian Program Coordinator Darlene Culpepper, Sarasota County Resources Jim Wormley, and City Clerk Lori Stelzer.

III. Approval of Minutes

[19-3806](#)

Minutes of the February 11, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Hicks, that the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Audience Participation

There was none.

V. Unfinished Business

Ms. Piper read a letter from Mr. Weaver regarding Pinebrook Park concerns relative to Brazilian pepper trees and other invasive species and the possibility to partner with Pinebrook Park and Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) to improve the area.

Discussion ensued on Wildlife Federation's Garden of Wildlife brochure, invasive species effect on wildlife, Keep Venice Beautiful's experience with coordinating projects with the county and city, Friends of Pinebrook Park assisting with coordination, Pinebrook Park, Nolen Greens, and Pinebrook Park's Celebration Walk on April 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion followed on literature received from Chris Simmons from the Wildlife Federation and possible projects to undertake.

VI. Updates

18-3032

City of Venice Update

Mr. Simpson discussed removal of vegetation at Pinebrook Park, Keep Venice Beautiful (KVB), Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), city and county working together, best time of year to do cutting and cleaning, and memorial bench program.

Ms. Matero noted the ongoing inventory of the benches.

Mr. Simpson reported on the adopt a park program.

Ms. Matero reported that 14 parks have been adopted, two are pending, seven are available, and answered board question on available parks.

Mr. Simpson reported the new sign has been installed at Pinebrook Park and answered board question on downtown bench placement.

18-3033

Sarasota County Update

Mr. Wormley reported on events held at the Venice Community Center (VCC), painting at the VCC, equipment replacement, future events at VCC, and athletic activities at Wellfield Park.

Mr. Wormley responded to board questions regarding determining need for security at events, field use for Lacrosse, Patriots Park signage, and revenue from shows at VCC is for facility rental.

18-3515

Review and Discuss Audited Parks

Ms. Piper noted she assigned her parks to Mr. Allen.

Discussion followed on the board's role in reviewing the parks, the validity of the forms, waiting until the end of the year to see if any revisions need to be made to the forms, hearing from staff on whether the information is helpful to staff and requesting staff to update the board on the value of the forms.

Discussion followed on the city reviewing the value of the various boards and Nolen Greens not being adopted by surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Simpson and Ms. Matero responded to board questions regarding the

notice given to neighbors around the Nolen Greens and implementation date of Adopt-a-Park program.

Ms. Sutherland left the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Board members discussed approaching the neighbors surrounding the Nolen Greens to take ownership.

Ms. Sutherland returned to the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Discussion took place on increasing publicity efforts for the Adopt-A-Park program and volunteerism in the city.

19-3807

Darlene Culpepper: Bicycle Safety Updates

Ms. Culpepper was recognized for her award of the 2018 Bicycle Professional of the Year.

Ms. Culpepper reported on bicycle safety, Venice Police Department's activities to date, education being key to safety, articles running in the city newsletter, serving on the bicycle/pedestrian trails advisory committee, and responded to board questions regarding potential improvements in Venice, and addressing confusion regarding the law on sharrows.

Discussion ensued on ticketing bicyclists to make them aware of the laws.

Discussion followed on bicycle accidents and preventive actions, proposed sidewalk installation and neighborhood objections, rules of the road, sidewalk gaps, elimination of police officers on bicycles during staffing shortage, actions the board could take to request getting those officers back on the road, proper role of the board and staff relative to police presence, and offering assistance to staff.

Ms. Fiedler discussed council's discussion on the strategic plan, role of advisory boards, boards reporting to city council, and police personnel.

Discussion continued on action being taken relative to bicycle accidents, research, Red Tide, sidewalks, the role of law enforcement relative to bicycle safety, and proper procedure for staff to attend the board meetings to address board members' concerns.

Ms. Stelzer stated the role of city staff and procedures.

In response to board questions, Ms. Culpepper noted enforcement, state level education, additional bike lanes would improve the situation for bicyclists, bicycle safety themes, and contact with county school systems.

Discussion followed on catchy slogans to promote safety, safety presentations to school age children, Bike Rodeo, and school crossings.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Clinch to discuss park forms, and police representative on bicycle safety.

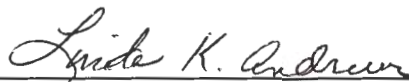
[18-3034](#)

Sarasota County PARC Update

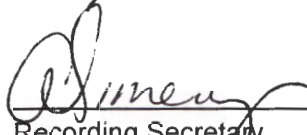
Ms. Piper spoke on review of minutes, and purchasing of properties.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.



Chair, *Protem*



Recording Secretary